

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 8650

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y P A R A 1 L I N E 4 W O R D 7

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR UN GQ
SUBJ: POVEDA, FONOFF UNDERSECRETARY REACT TO DEMARCHE ON ECUADOREAN
DELEGATION'S VOTE ON GUAM

REF: QUITO 8591

1. SUMMARY: PREVIOUS MIDDLE-LEVEL DEMARCHES EXPRESSING
OUR DISPLEASURE OVER THE ECUADOREAN VOTE ON GUAM RESOLUTION
AT UNGA RESULTED IN MEETINGS BETWEEN JUNTA CHIEF ADMIRAL
POVEDA AND ME IN WHICH HE RAILED AGAINST FONOFF, AND WITH
FONOFF UNDERSECRETARY AYALA IN WHICH HE HALF-APOLOGIZED. OUR
PURSUIT OF THIS ISSUE HAS UNCOVERED EXISTENCE OF A WIDE
DIVISION BETWEEN THE MILITARY AND FONOFF BUREAUCRATS AND HAS
SENSITIZED MILITARY TO THE PROBLEM. END SUMMARY.

2. TWO HOURS AFTER POLCOUNSELOR AND NAVATT MADE KNOWN OUR
DISPLEASURE ON ECUADOR'S VOTE ON GUAM RESOLUTION ON DECEMBER 9
(REFTEL, I RECEIVED A CALL FROM ADMIRAL POVEDA, CHAIRMAN OF
SUPREME GOVERNING COUNCIL, ASKING ME TO MEET PRIVATELY WITH HIM.
DURING THE AUDIENCE, POVEDA DID NOT CONCEAL HIS CONSTERNATION
OVER ECUADOR'S VOTE NOR HIS ANGER WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY.
HE SAID THAT HIS GOVERNMENT "HAD DEFINED" ITSELF, AND THAT HE
CONSIDERED ECUADOR AS PART OF A "BLOC" LED BY THE UNITED
STATES. IN LIGHT OF THIS, ECUADOR'S VOTE AGAINST OUR PRESENCE
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ON GUAM WAS INEXCUSABLE. HE EXPRESSED DEEP IRRITATION WITH
THE PERFORMANCE OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, CHARGING THAT IT WAS
NOT CONSCIOUS OF ECUADOR'S NATIONAL INTEREST AND THAT THIS
UNAWARENESS HAD RESULTED IN ITS CASTING THE WRONG VOTES AT

INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS.

3. POVEDA ASSERTED THAT IN THE PAST FEW MONTHS THE FONOFF HAD NOT ONLY HURT RELATIONS WITH US WITH ITS VOTE ON GUAM, BUT HAD DISOBEYED INSTRUCTIONS BY TAKING A HARD LING AGAINST CHILE AT THE OASGA IN JUNA AND VOTING FOR A UNGA RESOLUTION CONDEMNING CHILE LAST MONTH. POVEDA INDICATED THAT ECUADOR'S NATIONAL SECURITY INTEREST IN NOT ALIENATING CHILE WAS OBVIOUS TO ALL BUT FONOFF.

4. POVEDA SAID HE WAS DETERMINED TO GET TO BOTTOM OF AFFAIR AND TO DISMISS WHOEVER WAS RESPONSIBLE. HE VENTURED THAT UN AMBASSADOR ALBORNOZ MAY HAVE BEEN FREE-WHEELING, WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS OR HAD IGNORED INSTRUCTIONS. IF SO, POVEDA PROMISED HE WOULD BE FIRED.

5. ON FRIDAY, DEC. 10, I RECEIVED FROM THE UNDERSECRETARY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS THE CLOSEST THING TO AN APOLOGY THA THE FOREING MINISTRY IS CAPABLE OF. DURING THE COURSE OF THE CONVERSATION IT CAME OUT THAT THE PRESIDENT, ADMIRAL POVEDA, HAD CALLED THE UNDERSECRETARY TO "INQUIRE" (READ: RAISE HELL) ABOUT ECUADOR'S VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE GUAM RESOLUTION. I WILL NOT ATTEMTP TO RECONSTRUCT THE EXPLANATION THE UNDER-SECRETARY GAVE ME, INASMUCH AS IT MADE NO SENSE ON THE SURFACE. WHAT CAME ACROSS FAIRLY CLEARLY IS THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER, WITH WHOM I HAD PERSONALLY TAKEN UP THIS MATTER TWICE, HAD SOMEHOW GOOFED. I TOLD THE UUNDERSECRETARY VERY BLUNTLY THAT WE SAW NO EXCUSE FOR ECUADOR'S VOTE AND THIS KIND OF ACTION BELIED THE GOE'S OFT-STATED PROCLAMATIONS OF FIRENDSHIP FOR THE USG. HE WOUND UP HIS "CLARIFICATION" BY ASKING ME TO TRANSMIT TO MY GOVERNMENT THE ASSURANCES THAT THE GUAM VOTE SHOULD IN NO WAY BE TAKEN AS AN INDICATION OF ECUADOR'S ATTITUDE TOWARD THE USG, WHICH CONTINUED TO BE ONE OF ATTEMPTING TO PROMOTE THE CLOSEST AND FRIENDLIEST OF RELATIONS.

6. COMMENT: IT HAS COME OUT DURING OUR CONVERSATIONS ON CONFIDENTIAL

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THIS MATTER THAT NEITHER THE UNDERSECRETARY NOR THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE POLITICAL BUREAU (IN CHARGE OF MULTI-LATERAL AFFARIS) KNE ANYTHING ABOUT MY DEMARCHES TO THE MOREGIN MINISTER OR THE INSTRUCTIONS, IF ANY, TO THE ECUADOREAN DELEGATION. I AM THEREFORE INCLINED TO BELIEVE THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER DID IN FACT MISHANDLE THE SITUATION. HE IS NOT NOTED AS A PARTICULARLY STRONG PERSONALITY AND IT MAY BE THAT HE WAS IGNORED BY AMBASSADOR ALBORNOZ IN NEW YORK. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER WILL BE LEAVING OFFICE ON DECEMBER 31.

7. IN PURSUING THIS ISSUE, WE HAVE UNCOVERED A FISSURE ON FOREIGN POLICY BETWEEN THE COUNTRY'S MILITARY LEADERSHIP AND

THE FOROFF BUREAUCRACY OF PREVIOUSLY UNSUSPECTED DIMENSIONS.
IN FACT, I SUSPECT THAT A GOOD MANY IN FONOFF'S FOREIGN POLICY
ELITE WOULD PROBABLY GAG ON POVEDA'S STATEMENT ABOUT ECUADOR
BEING PART OF A U.S. BLOC IF FORCED TO REPEAT IT AS AN EXPRES-
SION OF ECUADOR'S DIRECTION IN FOREIGN POLICY. IN THE PAST
FEW DAYS WE HAVE SUCCEEDED IN SENSITIZING THE MILITARY LEADER-
SHIP TO THE DISCONTINUITY BETWEEN THEMSELVES AND THE FONOFF ON
MATTERS WHICH SHOULD BE OF CRITICAL INTEREST TO THE MILITARY.
SINCE THE MILITARY TENDS TO VIEW FOREIGN RELATIONS IN GENERAL
AND RELATIONS WITH THE US IN PARTICULAR IN A MANNER SIMILAR
TO OUR OWN, IT SEEMS TO BE CLEARLY IN OUR INTEREST TO HAVE THE
MILITARY MORE INVOLVED IN FOREIGN POLICY. HOWEVER, WHILE ALL
THE MILITARY OFFICIALS WHO HAVE HEARD OF THIS LATEST CONTRE-
TEMPS HAVE AGREED THAT HEADS SHOULD ROLL AND FUNDAMENTAL CHANGES
SHOULD BE MADE AS A RESULT, WE HAVE LEARNED TO BE SKEPTICAL
OF SUCH PLEDGES. WHETHER THEIR RESPONSE WILL REMAIN SO MUCH
BLUSTER, OR WHETHER THE MILITARY WILL ACTUALLY ATTEMPT TO
ASSERT ITSELF MORE IN THE FOREIGN POLICY FIELD MAY BE KNOWN
IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS IF A CABINET RESHUFFLE OCCURS AS
EXPECTED.
BLOOMFIELD

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